MESSAGE: FAITHFULNESS—A CHARACTER TRAIT OF BELIEVERS Pastor Larry Doggett 09-09-12 P1 of 2

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<u>Launching Text:</u> Isa 43:10-12 v10 ...that ye may know and believe and understand that I am He: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

1-Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

Rev 2:10.....be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.

Intro: God wants us to know, believe, and understand the He is God and besides Him there is no other gods that matters. To know = Hebrew word yaw-dah = to be aware of, to assuredly ascertain, to discover, to have revelation of, to be familiar with. To believe = Hebrew word = aw-man = to take as true, to trust, to be permanently certain of, to have assurance, to be stedfast in and to. To understand = Hebrew word = bene = to have discerned, to be informed, to operate in wisdom of, to comprehend, to attend to because one knows. With this in mind, this message will deal to some degree with three statements to us by the Lord: I have, I will, and I can. This means we can HAVE FAITH IN GOD—BE FAITH FILLED SO WE CAN BE FAITHFUL. Because we know, believe and understand God, we are to represent or demonstrate Him and that's what this message is about.

## 1. GOD WANTS US TO BE FAITHFUL IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOVE

# 1. Loving The Master

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength

### 1. If We Love The Master, We Will Love His Word

Job 22:22 Receive, I pray thee, the law from His (God's) mouth, and lay up His Words in thine heart.

### 2. If We Love The Master, We Will Love His Way

Isa 2:3 .....He will teach us His way and we will walk in His paths....

John 14:6 Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by Me.

#### 3. Loving His Will

2-Sam 15:15 And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my Lord, the King, shall appoint.

#### 2. Loving Mankind

#### 1. If We Love Mankind, We Will Love The Saints

1-Joh 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

### 2. If We Love Mankind, We Will Love The Sinners

1-John 4:7-8 Beloved let us love one another for God is love and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God for God is love. He that loveth not knoweth not God for God is love.

Mat 5:44-45 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh the sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.

# 2. GOD WANTS US TO BE FAITHFUL IN RESPONSIBILITIES WITH LABOR

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

## 1. Be Faithful In Our Responsibility Of Seeking God

Isa 55:6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (the things of life) shall be added unto you.

Luke 18:1 Men ought always to pray and not to faint.

### 2. Be Faithful in Our Responsibility of Studying God's Word

2-Tim 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Ps 119:105 Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against God.

### 3. Be Faithful In Our Responsibility to Show-up In God's House

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day (of judgement) approaching.

# 4. Be Faithful in Our Responsibility of Supplying for God's Work

1-Cor 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered Him that there be no gathering when I come. HOW? BY TITHING & GIVING

### 5. Be Faithful in Our Responsibility of Serving In God's Work

1-Cor 15:58 Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know you labor is not in vain in the Lord.

John 4:35 Say ye not, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Mark 16:15-20 And He (Jesus) said unto them, Go ye into all the world & preach the gospel to every creature He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues. The shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word with signs following. Amen.

Mat 10:7-8 (Jesus said) As ye go preach saying the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

### 6. Be Faithful in Our Responsibility of Separating From Worldliness

2-Cor 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them (the worldliness) & be ye separate saith the Lord. Touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you.

1-John 2:17 Love not the world nor the things that are in it......Don't be controlled by the world

7. Be Faithful in Our Responsibility of Sanctifying Ourselves (Set apart totally for God & what He wants)

1-Tim 5:22 Lay hand suddenly on no man, neither be a partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

1-Pet 1:15 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy (set apart & sanctified) in all manner of conversation (or living).

Rom 6:12 Let not sin reign in your mortal body to obey the lusts thereof.

### 8. Be Faithful in Our Responsibility of Submitting Ourselves

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore unto God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have rule over you and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls as they must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief for that is unprofitable to you.

# 3. GOD WANTS US TO BE FAITHFUL IN REPRENTATION WITH LOYALTY

John 2:5 .....whatever He says do, do it.

### 1. Be Faithful in Representing Jesus With A Loyal Attitude

2-Tim 2:19 And let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Isa 1:19-20 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. But if ye refuse & rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Prov 23:7 (it goes back to what the scripture says) as one thinketh in his heart so is he.

### 2. Be Faithful in Representing Jesus With Loyal Appreciation

1-Thes 5:18 In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

### 3. Be Faithful in Representing Jesus With Loyal Acclamation

Ps 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

1-The 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

Phil 4:4 Rejoice always and again I say rejoice.

Ps 150:6 Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

### 4. Be Faithful in Representing Jesus With Loyal Aggravation of the Devil

Mat 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, but the violent take it by force.

Eph 5:27 Neither give place to the devil. (keep him under your feet)

# CLOSING: FAITHFULNESS---DESERVED FROM MAN

DEMANDED BY GOD

# **DEMONSTRATED BY MAN**

God wants us to be faithful in our relationships, responsibilities, and representations and we can for the scripture declares in Phil 4:13, I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.